

In the Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A recombinant human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1), wherein the natural signal sequence (NSS) of the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein gp120 of the virus is replaced with a ~~an essentially non-cytolytic~~ signal sequence selected from the group consisting of mellitin signal sequence (MSS) and interleukin 3 signal sequence (ILSS).

Claims 2-5 **(canceled)**

6. **(currently amended)** ~~The recombinant HIV-1 according to any one of claims 1-5~~ The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
7. **(currently amended)** ~~The recombinant HIV-1 according to~~ The HIV-1 of claim 6 wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

Claims 8-30 **(canceled)**

31. **(new)** The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the MSS is shown as SEQ ID NO 9.
32. **(new)** The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the ILSS is shown as SEQ ID NO 10.
33. **(new)** The HIV-1 of claim 31 wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
34. **(new)** The HIV-1 of claim 32 wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
35. **(new)** The HIV-1 of claim 33 wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.
36. **(new)** The HIV-1 of claim 33 wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.
37. **(new)** A vaccine comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim 33.
38. **(new)** A vaccine comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim 34.
39. **(new)** A vaccine comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim 35.
40. **(new)** A vaccine comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim 36.